

BROWN TREE CARE SITE, BELLA VISTA AR

Issue:

Due to citizen's complaints received by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), during a phone call on September 19, 2018, the State of Arkansas requested EPA assistance in determining if any hazards were involved with an underground fire at the Brown Tree Care Site in Bella Vista, AR. The site is the location of a stump dump where stumps, vegetation and possibly other materials have been dumped in the past.

Background:

Approximately August 1, 2018, the State began receiving calls from citizens in the area regarding the odor and the smoke coming from the site. In mid-September, EPA was asked to sample the air at the site and the surrounding area. EPA mobilized to the site in October and November for sampling on- and off-site. In the latest set of sampling results, all semi-volatile and volatile organic compounds were below their respective screening level except for benzene at the on-site location which exceeded the non-cancer screening level. Off-site, benzene doesn't appear to present an unacceptable health risk.

Key Points:

- EPA sampled at the request of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the Arkansas Department of Health – all results are being shared with the state who are communicating the results to the local citizens.
- The local citizens and ADEQ have been in contact with the Senators from AR.
- EPA Region 6 EPA will be on-site the week of December 10th for three days of sampling for volatile organic compounds and monitoring of particulate matter. In addition, EPA is making an Office of Research and Development landfill fire expert available for consultation with the state.
- Based on the current sampling results, no off-site risks have been detected.

Talking Points:

- EPA was asked by the State of Arkansas to sample the site.
- EPA has been in constant contact with the State agencies regarding their sampling plans and findings.
- EPA will continue to support the state at the current time through additional sampling, providing technical assistance and expertise to the state as requested.